

REMARKS

By the above amendments, claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Additionally, a replacement sheet of drawings is appended hereto with a corrected Fig. 13. In view of these actions and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is requested.

At the outset, the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 5, 9-11, and 14-17 is acknowledged with appreciation. However, since claims 1 and 4 from which these claims depend are now believed to also be in condition for allowance, no action is being taken at this time to place claims 5, 9-11, and 14-17 in independent form.

With respect to the Examiner's objection to Fig. 13, it appears that the Examiner has misinterpreted the figure as showing two different embodiments. As described on page 12 of the specification, Fig. 13 shows a "version of the filter 51 with an internal filter 52 with a hole in the bottom 53 acting as a trap 54. Thereby is obtained a flea filter 55." That is, the structure 52, 53, is illustrated in broken lines because it is internal to the filter 55, and the only error is use of the reference number 51 in the specification and in Fig. 13. Thus, reference number 51 has been deleted from Fig. 13 and change to 41 in the specification to indicate that Fig. 13 is a modification of the Fig. 12 filter in which an internal flea trap 54 has been added. Accordingly, the objection to Fig. 13 should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by the Silvera et al. patent while claims 3 and 7 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over the Silvera et al. patent. To the extent that these rejections relate to the claims as now presented, they should be withdrawn for the following reasons.

As can be seen from Figs. 2, 3, 14, 17, 18, and 20 of the present application, the mouth of applicant's mouthpiece 102 is arranged longitudinally inclining at an inclined angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the mouthpiece 102, with an inclining wall 110 surrounding an open part of the mouth 108, the inclining wall being at said first angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of the mouthpiece and being at a second angle with respect to the wall 112 to which the comb 104 is attached (all reference numbers being those shown in Fig. 20, by way of example).

In contrast, while Silvera et al.'s comb 58 is inclined relative to the longitudinal axis of their nozzle body 53 (mouthpiece), the wall to which it is attached is curved, but is not inclined. Likewise, the wall of the mouthpiece which form the open portion thereof in the Silvera et al. patent is normal to, not inclined, with respect to the longitudinal axis of their

mouthpiece, and is essentially parallel to the wall to which the comb is attached, instead of being arranged at an angle relative thereto as in the present invention.

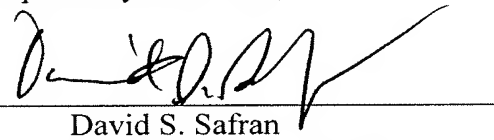
Furthermore, the Examiner's attention is directed to the deficiencies of the Silvera et al. attachment that are noted in the second paragraph of page 4 of the present application which are attributable to the configuration of the mouth of the mouthpiece and the inward angling of the comb relative to the mouth of the mouthpiece which relates to the comb, instead of the wall to which it is attached, being inclined with respect to the longitudinal axis of the mouthpiece and the wall forming the open portion thereof. Thus, the present invention is both different from and advantageous with respect to the Silvera et al. attachment, and these differences and the advantages that they achieve are not obvious from anything taught by Silvera et al. so that the rejections based on this reference should be withdrawn and such action is hereby requested.

The references that have been cited but not applied by the Examiner have been taken into consideration. However, since these references were not found to be relevant enough by the Examiner to apply against the original claims, no detailed comments thereon are believed to be warranted at this time.

While this application should now be in condition for allowance, in the event that any issues should remain after consideration of this response which could be addressed through discussions with the undersigned, then the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone for that purpose.

Lastly, accompanying this response is a request for extension of time petition and authorization to charge same to the deposit account of the undersigned's firm. However, should this extension of time petition become separated from this Amendment, then it is requested that this Amendment be construed as containing such a petition and the fee therefore should be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2478(742111-157).

Respectfully submitted,



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